

The Camel Express

Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

CARE International Niger: Our support is needed. Assisting refugees throughout Niger. Please consider making a donation.

Friends of Niger is raising support for CARE International, Niger (CARE Niger) to help with the refugee situation in Niger. CARE Niger assists refugees who have been displaced by the violence in neighboring countries of Mali, Chad, and Nigeria. CARE Niger often provides refugees with the basic necessities since camp inhabitants arrive only with what they are wearing and have been traumatized from being



forced to leave their villages. In most cases, it has also become unsafe for refugees to return to their villages and so they must settle into the camps as their new home. The camps provide refugees with water, tents, sanitary facilities, medical and vaccination huts, and a maternity center. Schools are established on-site so that children can continue to receive an education. Newly arrived residents are registered in order to manage assistance and identify the residents. Please see **CARE**, Page 3



URGENT! FON looking for an Editor "in chief" for The Camel Express newsletter!

Please see Page 6

Letter from the FON President: Meredith McGehee

Dear Friends of Niger Members,

As your new president of Friends of Niger (FON), I am reaching out to urge you to increase your engagement with us at a time when Niger is facing new challenges. It is a time to ensure that the connections that each of us has made with Nigeriens are strengthened. And if those connections have slipped away over the years, let's work together to renew them.

I understand that each person's connection to Niger and FON is different -- some mix of wanting to reconnect with old friends and of wanting to help those among whom we used to live. And maybe part of it is hoping to find more information about what is going on in Niger and the Sahel.

Together, our challenge is to revitalize FON and to increase FON's ability to make a difference. FON's new vice president Tom Corcoran has years of experience in fundraising and Lindsay Randall, the new head of the Projects Committee, works in the field. Joining with the returning Board members -- and with your increased support and participation, FON is positioned to have even greater impact. But the FON Board can't do it alone!

Please see **Letter**, Page 2

Letter

From Page 1

The challenges facing Niger are a concern to all of us: the Boko Haram attacks in the east that have caused more than 50,000 Nigeriens to flee to refugee camps near Diffa, the growing threats of ISIS and Al Qaeda in the Maghreb in Libya, as well as problems which have erupted in Mali. Other challenges continue to be those involving the economy, health, education, and population growth. Much remains to be done – Niger still ranks 188 of the 188 countries on the U.N. Human Development Index. But we can do our part to help.

Since its inception, FON has funded numerous projects in Niger. When the FON Board asked me to serve as president, I felt moved to step forward because I am excited about the role that I believe FON can play in strengthening ties between Americans and Nigeriens, and I am hopeful about finding ways to increase FON’s assistance.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any thoughts or ideas. I look forward to hearing from you. Na gode.

Meredith McGehee
President, Friends of Niger



Peace Corps Beyond

Peace Corps Connect is the Peace Corps community’s annual conference hosted by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and its affiliate groups to connect, advocate and impact. At this year’s conference – Peace Corps Beyond – we look forward to celebrating 55 years of Peace Corps and the limitless potential of our community to continue to create change. The conference will highlight work being done by our community members and partner organizations and explore how, through increased collaboration, we can continue to champion Peace Corps ideals. Find more information here:

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/peace-corps-connect>

If you attend and would like to share your experience with an CEX article email tcwilsoncal@gmail.com

Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Meredith McGehee , <i>President</i> | Lindsay Randall , <i>Projects Committee</i> |
| Tom Corcoran , <i>Vice-President & Fundraising Committee</i> | Saley Tahirou , <i>CONUSA President</i> |
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| John Hutchison , <i>Niger Relations Liaison</i> | ***** |
| John Baird , <i>Membership</i> | Teri Wilson , <i>Layout Editor</i> |
| Steve Bushell , <i>Webmaster</i> | Leah LaCivita , <i>Text Editor</i> |

The Camel Express is the periodical newsletter of Friends of Niger (FON). FON can be contacted via the post at P.O. Box 5823 Washington, D. C. 20016-1423. Or by e-mail at president@friendsofniger.org and you will find FON on the web and this newsletter in full color at: www.friendsofniger.org. Please send address changes and corrections, as well as any queries to The Camel Express at the address above. Friends of Niger is an affiliate group of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Website: www.peacecorpsconnect.org

Correspondence from Zoolkoski For Vitamins



With the holiday, we only have to tend to emergencies today thus allowing for some down time to acknowledge your gift of vitamins that Tom transported to us.

We have been distributing them to our malnourished patients and recently to the children in one of the neighboring villages (see photo).

Thank you for this gift on behalf of the needy children in the Tahoua region.

Gratefully serving with you,

Christopher D. Zoolkoski, MD
RPCV Tahoua 88-90

FON Financial Report:

FON continues to minimize its overhead while expending the majority of its resources on funding local projects run by local Nigerien organizations. The major overhead expenses are the cost of wiring funds and the printing and mailing of our newsletter, and these represent less than 6% of the \$13,000 spent since January. We have funded 5 projects to date in 2016 including sheep and goat husbandry projects, a pilot Moringa growing/education project, one well digging project and a donation of \$500 to address hunger at the time of Ramadan. Our current balance based primarily on funds saved from previous years is \$13,700.

CARE

From Page 1

CARE Niger distributes the following kits to refugees:

- **NFI kit:** 3 blankets, 3 mats, 2 buckets, and 2 Jerry cans.
- **Kitchen kit:** 1 bucket, 5 bowls/cups, 5 plates, 2 ladles, 2 spatulas, 2 agitators, 2 pots of different sizes and 1 knife.

Other resources that are distributed when available include hygiene kits and vouchers to purchase basic necessities.

Some of the new camps include members of the diverse ethnic groups that comprise Niger and its neighboring countries including Kanuri, Fulani, Hausa, Muchika and Mandara.

Aishata Hadmalik (see photo), is 46 years old, a Malian refugee, and has been living in Mangaizé for 4 years. She says that she is really thankful for everything that CARE has done for her. Her family has been provided with hygiene and NFI kits, and she has received cash for work done onsite. Thanks to her time at Mangaizé and to the support provided by CARE Niger, Aishata has been able to overcome the trauma she experienced during the crisis in Mali and is now worry-free. Aishata says CARE Niger is unique because of all the help provided to her and her fellow refugees.

Please consider making a donation to CARE via Friends of Niger. All donations raised through this appeal will be bundled and sent to CARE Niger as an “emergency” donation from FON and its members.



Tribute to John Soloninka for Many Years of Leadership to Friends Of Niger

Thank you John Soloninka for your 18 years of dedicated service to the Friends of Niger serving first as recording secretary and then for 11 years as president.

Many may not know that John was never a Peace Corps Volunteer, but rather that his service in Niger was as the representative of the Lutheran World Relief for 6 years (1990-1996). John was well known to the Peace Corps Community. When the Friends of Niger was reconstituted in 1998 under the leadership of Jim Schneider, John Soloninka assumed the position of recording secretary. At that time FON had a working budget of about \$4,000 and some 60 dues paying members.

In June of 2005 with the retirement of Jim Schneider, John Soloninka, with the full support of the Board, assumed the position of president. John managed quarterly conference calls, an expanded Board with the positions of Membership, Web-master, Niger Liaison, CONUSA, and Projects. He led us in an evolving role in advocacy and fund raising, and in dedicating a strong focus on programs addressing young girls' education.

If one looks at the FON archives, it will be apparent that for most of the past years under John's leadership FON was able to deliver three newsletters per year. When newsletter editors were unable to assist, John stepped in and took over the role of editor. John also made sure that FON filed annual financial reports and minimized overhead expenses. John was also responsible for ordering and mailing out the FON T-shirts and keeping track of all donations.

With the suspension of both the Boston University and Peace Corps programs, Friends of Niger suddenly found itself cut off from an array of resources and contacts in the country, but under John's leadership we were able to find our footing and continue to provide an important role for our members. John made sure we followed our bylaws and held elections every two years.

Lastly, as John's increasing responsibilities at work began claiming more of his time, we are grateful that he continued to provide needed continuity and support during the process of identifying new leadership.

John Soloninka, Friends of Niger thanks you for your dedication, guidance, and service to this organization and to the country and people of Niger whom we all came to love during our time living and working there.

**URGENT! FON looking for
an Editor "in chief" for
The Camel Express
newsletter!**

Please see Page 6

Thank you Gabriella Maertens for Your Years of Service to Friends Of Niger

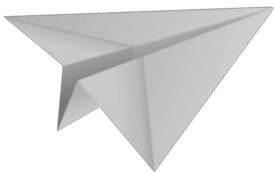
Gabriella Maertens, we are most appreciative of your 18 years of dedicated service as Vice President for the Friends of Niger.

Gabriella's interest and connection to Niger and West Africa has been continuous since her Peace Corps Service. Gabriella was a member of Niger III, that hard core group of volunteers (1964-66) serving as a physical education and TEFL teacher in Zinder. Gabriella subsequently married a Togolese, who had worked for Peace Corps, and they lived in Niamey for six more years. Their three children were born there and Gabriella continued teaching TEFL. Subsequently they moved to Togo where she taught TEFL for six more years.

Gabriella returned to the states and lived in Portland, Oregon where she was active with the Columbia River Peace Corps Association. After the visit to Niger in 1997 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Peace Corps in Niger, Gabriella used her experience with CRPCA to assist with the re-activation of the Friends of Niger, assuming the position of Vice President serving along Jim Schneider, President.

With the assistance of Gabriella, FON expanded its membership, helped organize a second trip to Niger of former volunteers and parents of volunteers in 2002, started the newsletter and began funding projects proposed by primarily local NGOs. Funding of local projects whether in education for girls or women, distribution of chewable vitamins to the National Hospital, well digging, micro credit, and animal husbandry; there was no project which did not receive full consideration. Gabriella developed a form to review projects, spent extensive time working with local NGOs in Niger to facilitate the review of their projects, and subsequently developed the current list of former volunteers to assist her and the Board in evaluating projects.

Gabriella, in reflecting on her past years of service, has told us, "Thank you, Friends of Niger, for the opportunity to serve on the board these many years. It has been a thrill! I've enjoyed staying in touch with the broader Niger RPCV community and working with many Nigeriens in developing projects to benefit the people of Niger. I am grateful that Meredith, Tom and Lindsay have now stepped forward, and I share their excitement for finding new and effective ways to help the people of Niger."



Where does the CEX go?

Ever wonder how many people receive and read the CEX? If so check out some of these stats.

March 2016 Circulation of The Camel Express

175 paper copies sent by US Mail

538 copies sent by email

713 Total distributed

September 2016 Circulation of The Camel Express

177 paper copies sent by US Mail

554 copies sent by email

731 Total distributed

Want to get more involved with the CEX? See the perfect opportunity to lead the communication as the Editor In Chief on Page 6.

URGENT! FON Needs an Editor In Chief URGENT!

Dear Friends of Niger,

Over the last three issues we've been putting together a new team for publishing the newsletter. Although short-handed, we've managed with the help of two Niger RPCVs who have stepped forward:

Teri Wilson (Niger 08-10) has been helping us as layout editor. In addition to organizing the pages, Teri has been playing with some style changes to give us a new look. Teri is also looking at using social media more. We also have Leah LaCivita (Niger '93-'96) as text editor. As a professional editor, Leah takes submitted articles and works her magic so that they read better.

But we need someone to oversee the whole process — we need to fill the Friends of Niger Board position of Newsletter Editor. Please note that all board positions are volunteer and unpaid.

What does the job of Editor entail?

- Solicit/coordinate articles
- Familiarity with publishing software (currently using Apple Pages; MS Publisher in the past)
- Diplomatically guide the discussion of what the CEX will look like and what to include.
- Oversee the printing, mailing, and emailing of each issue (although others can do the actual work). Circulation is currently 713.
- Participate in quarterly 1-hour long board meeting conference calls.

Why would you want the job of editor of The Camel Express?

It's a stimulating job that will give you the opportunity to further the mission of Friends of Niger and to interact with Niger RPCVs.

We would not expect you to jump in and assume all responsibility at once. The Board will always be at your side to assist and help you learn the ropes, and that might take 1-2 years.

If you would like to be considered for the job of CEX Editor, or if you would like to help with the newsletter in some other way, please contact John Baird, JBairdRPT@cs.com

Reunion Celebration By Joel Neuberg

The traditional quinquennial Niger V and VI RPCV reunion celebration of the Fête tournante du 3 août was held August 5-7, 2016 at the bucolic Northern California estate of Bob (Niger V) and Gayle (Niger VI) Reid. From Friday evening through Sunday lunch, a total of forty-six former volunteers and nearly twenty dedicated partners caught up on the lives of friends, some of whom they had not seen in years or decades. Wendy Wallin (VI) and Norma Hyatt (V) had tracked down and invited over eighty former volunteers, and many who could not attend sent messages. West African cuisine was cooked by genuine West Africans; Northern California wines were consumed, old and less old stories swapped.

Janice Gulley Blumenkrantz invited people she had met in Berkeley who are working on development, population and climate change mitigation issues in Niger and neighboring countries.

Before dinner on Saturday, the assembled multitude heard presentations on current projects in Niger from:

- Clark Kerr regarding a program of Association Au Coeur du Niger to rescue, house and educate albino children, “ the poorest of the poor” in Zinder
- Alisha Graves and Abdoukader Issoufou for The Oasis Initiative, a project of the University of California (Berkeley) organizing to advance solutions in the Sahel;
- Joel Neuberg regarding current programs supported by FON.

Several of those present pledged financial support to these initiatives as well as to FON's general fund. The OASIS Initiative: <http://oasisinitiative.berkeley.edu/> Albino Project: http://www.aucoeurduniger.ch/association_e.html. Bob Potter showed a moving photo montage of John Lewis and Mike Parish, deceased since the last reunion: "Parrish & Lewis Remembered" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN4eSOz6LgI> and made available previous film he and Judy Irola had done on the groups: "After 37 Years—Niger PC Reunion 2005" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8C6CmTG2rU> "Niger '66— A Peace Corps Diary" (full) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFfvSlme1U> Also, Chips Norcross put online PDFs of the 1960s "SHA" newsletter we used to read: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tg7ce1higrn39sl/SHA%20COPIES%202.pdf?dl=0>



Meet Meredith McGehee, our new FON president

On June 1, 2016 Meredith McGehee became the new president of Friends of Niger. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger from 1978 to 1980 in Zinder in the Youth Development program and also taught English at College Fatima. She currently lives in Maryland with her husband, Jeff Drumtra, who served as a PCV in Mirriah, Niger.

Meredith is enthusiastic about returning to serve as FON's new president. After founding the group in the late 1980s she ran the group for about 10 years, handing over the reins shortly after her son came along in the mid 1990s. She gives much credit to Joel Mayer –"PCV extraordinaire"– for keeping things going through the transition to new leadership. Meredith is pleased to have this opportunity again to be more active in helping guide the organization now that her family is raised.

Meredith says, "My hope is that FON can continue to fund worthwhile development projects, to build strong bonds between Americans and Nigeriens on a people-to-people basis, and to help educate Americans about Niger."

Professionally, Meredith McGehee is an expert of democracy issues such as campaign finance, ethics in government and nonprofit lobbying and serves as the principal of McGehee Strategies, which specializes in public interest advocacy campaigns.

Meredith has been named nine times, including 2015, by The Hill as one of the top nonprofit/grassroots lobbyists in Washington. She speaks at universities and organizations around the country, has testified before Congress, and is frequently quoted in national newspapers including The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Salon, Broadcasting & Cable, The Washington Examiner and The Des Moines Register. She also has appeared on national news shows, including ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Bloomberg TV, C-Span and MSNBC.

You can find this C-SPAN interview and more about her work life at: <http://www.mcgeheestrategies.com>



New Sun Rises on Our Projects Committee by Lindsay Randall

My favorite Hausa proverb is one that I learned after leaving Niger: yawa shi kan sa zarre ya ja duchi / quantity makes the cotton draw a stone. Unity is strength.

As the new Committee Chair for Projects, I write to share with you information about our Projects Committee and to ask your support for the ongoing work of Friends of Niger. We hope that you can make contributions to FON to help fund projects recommended for funding by the FON Board and Projects and the Projects Committee. Also, we hope that if you have time and expertise, you'd be willing to join in assisting the work of the Projects Committee.

Unlike the other former volunteers who serve on the Projects committee, many of whom are RPCVs, I lived in Niger with the Boston University program in 2009. For those of us who hold Niger dear, we know there's a lot of work to be done. Recent flooding has only added to the teetering food security crisis and the ever-dynamic, ever-evolving threats from fundamentalist organizations flanking Niamey from the north and south. Despite all obstacles, however, Nigeriens persevere. FON only adds to the profound strength that already radiates from our Nigerien counterparts.

Our current Projects Committee members responded to a request for interest, which was emailed to FON members nearly a year ago by our former Vice President and Projects Committee Chairperson, Gabriella Maertens. The current members are:

Steve Anderson, Tom Dechert, Tina Shield, Phoebe Kitson-Davis, Christopher Knapp, Amy Wilson, John Hutchinson (as John Hutchinson also serves on the FON Board, he will not be involved in evaluating any projects that are submitted on his behalf), Geoffrey Guerts, Cheryl Turner.

They bring a wealth of experience in proposal review, impact assessment, and negotiation on projects ranging in size from local, community-based NGOs to USAID funded initiatives. Those on the committee have already evaluated many projects that passed through FON's inboxes, and many maintain close relationships with grantees. The Committee is bolstered by impressive years of experience in Niger, the Sahel, and international development. Our evaluators, most of whom are RPCVs, are skilled in community arts, health education, women's literacy, Sahelian agriculture, fishing practices, animal husbandry, small enterprise development, girls education, and refugee issues.

While the Projects Committee is exceptionally strong, we are looking for additional support in the following technical areas: education (all levels, including vocational), public health, water supply and environmental infrastructure, microfinance (specifically women-targeted economic empowerment opportunities).

The FON Board is also in the process of reviewing some potential changes in our grant process, such as setting deadlines and thresholds for proposals, which are aimed to both streamline our process but also better serve our Nigerien applicants through increased transparency and clearer timelines for decisions. As we move forward, I will endeavor to make the relationships that grantees and those who submit proposals to FON as positive and familiar as possible – something that the steadfast Board and FON members have already worked so hard to do.

The Projects Committee is currently reviewing 3 grant requests for a total of \$8,294. We look forward to your support – financially or by lending your technical expertise to our Committee.



FON Welcomes Tom Corcoran

Tom Corcoran was born and raised in Chicago, IL. Upon graduation from Loyola University, he joined the Peace Corps as part of the first group of volunteers in Chad. He was assigned to the village of Baga Sola on Lake Chad, where he worked on irrigation projects with local farmers. After his volunteer service, Tom was then selected as a Peace Corps Fellow and spent one year as a management intern in Washington DC. He became Assistant Country Director in the Republic of Dahomey (now Benin), and then Country Director. Altogether he spent seven years of his life in the Peace Corps, and regards that period as one of the highlights of his life.



Upon his return to the US, Tom attended the Wharton Graduate School where he earned a Master's in Public Administration, specializing in public finance.

Upon graduation he went to work for the City of Camden, NJ, one of the poorest cities in America. For eight years he worked in a variety of governmental jobs, becoming the city's business administrator, the highest appointed official. In 1984 Tom founded and became executive director of a non-profit corporation established to redevelop Camden's almost totally abandoned downtown waterfront. Working with his board of directors and a variety of local, state, and federal agencies over a twenty-five year period, the organization was able to attract \$550 million in new public and private investment and established the waterfront as a new center of economic activity. His organization also worked with neighborhood groups throughout the city to help develop community-based plans and obtain government grants.



Tom in 1966 in the town of Baga Sola on Lake Chad.

In 2009 Tom was recruited to lead a similar start-up non-profit whose goal was to stimulate new public and private investment on the post-industrial Philadelphia side of the Delaware River, which had been cut off from the rest of the city forty years earlier by the construction of I-95. During his tenure, the waterfront has become a destination for local residents and regional visitors alike and there is now a significant amount of new private stimulated by the construction of a growing network of parks and trails and seasonal attractions. Tom is the newly elected vice-president of FON's board of directors, and also chairs the organization's fund raising committee. In his words,

I am very excited about this opportunity to be involved in grass roots activities in Niger. I think FON has a very good track record of funding successful demonstration projects, and benefits from having a dedicated board and a committed membership. I have always believed that money eventually finds its way to good projects, and I am optimistic that we will be able to secure new and increased funding for FON's many activities in Niger. - Tom Corcoran

Nigerienne Wins Partial Scholarship to U.S. College

Africa's Tomorrow, an Oregon-based NGO founded by a returned Peace Corps volunteer to help finance college education in the U.S. for qualified young African women, selected its first-ever Nigerienne scholarship recipient this summer.

Africa's Tomorrow (AT) selected Niamey resident Maimouna Bio Gado and has pledged to provide her annual modest financial support once she successfully enrolls at an American college. AT selected Maimouna based on her written essay and academic record. Maimouna, 25, previously earned an Associate of Arts degree during two years at Pima Community College in Arizona, where she majored in political science with a 4.0 grade point average. Maimouna was unable to complete her college education due to lack of funds and returned to Niger in 2015 without the four-year college degree she dreamed of achieving.



Africa's Tomorrow selects a handful of aspiring African female college students who usually are sponsored by Peace Corps volunteers. Maimouna is sponsored by FON President Meredith McGehee. AT awards the young women a modest grant to assist with the college application process and defray expenses such as TOEFL exams. Scholarship recipients are responsible for gaining acceptance to a U.S. college and finding additional funding to pay for their education, usually a combination of assistance from the school and donations from individuals. Grant recipients are expected to return to Africa within 10 years of completing college.

"Both my parents are educators and value education very much," Maimouna explained. "My dad used to tell us that education was the only real heritage that he could give us, because it couldn't be taken away from us, be lost or broken. So he saved up as much as he could and sent me to study to the U.S. But American education being expensive and us not having the means, I couldn't go as far as we wanted, and I had to come back to my country."



"There is a lot of pressure, from religious leaders and society, on young girls to abandon school and get married. The religious leaders preach that school depraves girls, and men in our society prefer young girls for marriage. In Niger there are a lot of forced marriages of girls, as early as age 13."

"I hope to fight for women's and children's rights as well as their education. I hope to be a role model for young girls, not only in my country, but beyond my country's boundaries. Young African girls need more examples of strong female leaders. There is a saying that when a woman is educated, all the family [becomes educated] because she is the nurturer and the teacher of the family. My goal is to have all women and children educated. I would like to be part of the government that advocates for them. Development comes from education.

Encouraged by her support from Africa's Tomorrow, Maimouna has begun the college application process. To help Maimouna achieve her desire to complete her college education, go to www.africastomorrow.org, find the link for Maimouna on the 2016 students list, and make a contribution.

Friends of Niger Membership Form *(Please print clearly)*

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____ City / State / Zip _____
 Phone Numbers (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____
 Email _____
 Connection to Niger (RPCV, etc.) _____ Dates in Niger (Years) _____
 Location in Niger _____ Program or Involvement _____

PRIVACY POLICY: Your contact information is requested and maintained by FON so that we can contact you. FON does not share your information with any third party other than with the National Peace Corps Association with whom we have a reciprocity agreement.

- Please send paper copies of The Camel Express newsletter by US Mail
- Please send links to the PDF version of The Camel Express by email

Membership dues & donations help fund FON activities including The Camel Express, the FON website, the FON archives, and local Nigerien projects. The Friends of Niger is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3). Membership and contributions to Friends of Niger are fully tax deductible.

Please Check Appropriate Boxes

- Enclosed is \$20 for an Individual Membership in FON**
 - In addition to my membership, I have enclosed a General Contribution of \$_____ OR
 - Instead of joining FON at this time, I enclose a General Contribution of \$_____
 - I would like to support FON Matching projects: Goats, RAIN, Well, CARE \$_____
- Merchandise
- Please send ___ Friends of Niger T-Shirts at \$15 each (shipping included) \$_____
 - T-Shirt Sizes: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ T-Shirt Color: brown ___ beige ___
- TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____**

Make check or money order payable to Friends of Niger, and mail with this form to:
 PO Box 5823, Washington DC 20016-1423
 To pay FON dues with credit card through NPCA, please contact us for further instructions.

Bad boys not Boko Haram: How the Media Misinterprets African Violence

In the March 2016 Camel Express newsletter we referred you to an article in the Foreign Policy Magazine called, “Dead Man’s Market and the Boy Gangs of Niger.” Since then, residents in Niger have rejected that report on youth violence in Niger saying that it gave too extreme a characterization of the “bad boys.” Here’s the link to this new article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/20/bad-boys-not-boko-haram-how-the-media-misinterprets-african-violence>



Friends of Niger
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Address Service Requested

*"There is no way to peace.
Peace is the way."*
- A.J. Muste

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An electronic full color version of this newsletter and previous editions
can be accessed at www.friendsofniger.org

